As a particular example of communication in access networks, the Adaptive Multi-Rate (AMR) speech codec has been specified by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) for the Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) cellular telecommunications system. The AMR speech codec aims to combine wireline speech quality with the capacity benefits of half-rate operation. Since this cannot be achieved under all conditions, an adaptive solution is necessary which tracks the rapidly changing radio conditions and local traffic levels. Accordingly, the AMR speech codec selects in real-time the type of channel (full-rate or half-rate) and, for each channel type, one of several codec bit rates. This allows the optimum combination of speech coding and channel coding bit-rates to be selected to meet the instantaneous radio channel conditions and the local capacity requirements. Whilst the AMR speech codec was initially aimed at GSM telecommunications systems, its high performance targets have resulted in the AMR speech codec being selected as the mandatory and default codec for use in UMTS.

At the same time, there is a limitation on the evolution of mobile communications systems and broadband multi-service networks in that, unfortunately, the core network transport protocols do not currently enable encoded information from access networks to be transported across a core network.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

It would therefore be desirable to provide means for facilitating communication of encoded information between various nodes or endpoints in access networks separated by a core network.

In one aspect the present invention provides in a telecommunication system having a first network based on a first technology and a second network based on a second technology, the second network in communication with the first network, a method of providing a message encoding format profile functionality adapted to enable transport of encoded information along at least a portion of a path of communication established between the networks, the method including:

mapping the encoded information from a first message having a first message encoding format to a second message having a second message encoding format wherein the mapping is performed in accordance with the following steps:

a) determining message User-to-User Indication information;

b) determining message Length Indicator information, and;

c) selecting a message encoding format based on the determination of steps a) and b), above.

Preferably, the step of mapping is based on logical mapping and preferably, the step of logical mapping includes bit stuffing.

In another aspect, the present invention provides in a telecommunication system having a first network based on a first technology and a second network based on a second technology, the second network in communication with the first network;

a message encoding format profile functionality adapted to enable transport of encoded information along at least a portion of a path of communication established between the networks, the profile functionality including:

mapping means for mapping the encoded information from a first message having a first message encoding format to a second message having a second message encoding format wherein the mapping is performed in accordance with the following steps:

a) determining message User-to-User Indication information;

b) determining message Length Indicator information, and;

c) selecting a message encoding format based on the determination of a) and b), above, and;

message creation means for creating the second message having a message encoding format in accordance with the encoding format selected in c).

Preferably, the second network is an ATM core network.

Preferably, the ATM network includes an AAL2 Adaptation layer.

Preferably, the AAL2 adaptation layer includes an I.366.2 Service Specific Convergence Sublayer.